

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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Sylvia Marks honored as Ambassador of Goodwill at the Tropicana Aruba Resort



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very special

Lady who is a loyal and friendly Visitor of Aruba, at the Tropicana Aruba Resort

& Casino, as Ambassador of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20 or more consecutive years.

The honoree was Mrs. Sylvia Cecilia Marks from Westminster Maryland. Mrs. Marks has been visiting Aruba for over 20 consecutive years, and she loves the Island very much because of the friendly people, climate, the beautiful sites, Casino's and she has made so many friends on the Island during the years.

Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority presented Sylvia with the Goodwill Ambassador certificate together with Ms. Jacky Feliciano and Ms. Angelica Christiaans representing the Tropicana Aruba Resort & Casino.

Bigger security threat outside Sochi: US official

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The biggest security threat facing the Olympic games in Russia is a possible attack in areas outside of Sochi and its heavily-guarded venues, a top US counter-terrorism official said on Tuesday.

"We think the greater danger, from a terrorist perspective, is in the potential for attacks to occur outside of the actual venues for the games themselves, in the area surrounding Sochi or outside of Sochi, in the region," said

Matthew Olsen, director of the National Counter-terrorism Center.

Security at the Sochi winter games has been a major focus for Moscow as well as Washington, after two deadly suicide attacks in December in the southern city of Volgograd and a stream of threats from Islamist militants in the volatile northern Caucasus region.

Continued on pg 6

US Army faces massive recruiting fraud scandal

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Criminal investigators suspect hundreds of US Army soldiers exploited a recruitment program to receive illegal kickbacks worth more than \$29 million, lawmakers and officials said Tuesday.

The scale of the potential fraud was "astounding" and ranks as one of the largest criminal probes in the Army's history, said Senator Claire McCaskill, who held a hearing on the scandal.

An Army audit has found that more than 1,200 recruiters had received payments that were potentially fraudulent, defense officials said.

"We now know that thousands of service members, their families and friends, may have participated in schemes to defraud the government they served and the taxpayers," McCaskill said.

The kickbacks grew out of a 2005 project launched at a time when the US Army and National Guard were struggling to secure new recruits amid heavy casualties in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The National Guard program, which was eventually extended to the active-duty Army, essentially paid troops for referrals of recruits.

These "recruiting assistants," which included National Guard soldiers and civilians, were allowed to earn between \$2,000 to \$7,500 for each person they



persuaded to enlist.

Although official US Army recruiters were barred from collecting any referral bonuses, many of them took payments that were undetected for years.

Officials at the firm hired to run the program, Docupak, first reported a few cases of fraud in 2007. Over the years, officials grew more suspicious and in 2011, the Army launched a formal audit of the whole program, which was scrapped in February 2012.

McCaskill, chairwoman of the Senate's Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight cited a criminal case in Texas, in which a former member of the National Guard was recently sentenced to four years and nine months in prison for leading a conspiracy to obtain \$244,000 in fraudulent recruiting bonuses.

The Army expressed outrage at the fraud and vowed to get to the bottom of it.

U2 freebie rakes in \$3 million to combat AIDS



Bono performing in Beverly Hills, California

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Rock group U2's new single "Invisible" raised more than \$3 million for the fight against AIDS during the 36 hours it was available for free on iTunes, it was revealed

Tuesday.

It scored more than one million downloads in the hour after it premiered in a Bank of America commercial during Sunday's Super Bowl, then picked up two million

more until the free offer ended Monday midnight (0500 GMT Tuesday.)

With the second-biggest bank in the United States pledging one dollar for every download, "Invisible" raised more than \$3 million for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The song now is selling on iTunes for \$1.29 with all proceeds going to the Global Fund, said (RED), a charity co-founded in 2006 by U2 frontman Bono to engage big consumer brands in AIDS fund-raising, in a statement.

"We are very thrilled with this, 'Invisible', it sounds great and it feels good," Bono told Britain's BBC Radio One pop music station Monday. "We're just delighted there are still people very interested in us."

The Bank of America, which made \$3.4 billion last year, has committed \$10 million over two years to fight AIDS in a partnership with (RED) and U2 announced in January.



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Minister dr. Schwengle: "Investing in IMSan will facilitate the hospital renovation period"



SAN NICOLAS -- Minister of Public Health, Dr. Alex Schwengle, is of the opinion that investing in IMSan will facilitate the difficult period of renovation of our Hospital. IMSan, he is convinced will be a tremendous partner during the renovation period. Dr. Schwengle paid IMSan a visit last week and was received by director of IMSan, Dr. Joel Raynherc. During his visit the Minister received a much better view of the functioning and plans of IMSan to improve its operation.

The Minister indicated that IMSan has a complete

system set up, and in the near future they can begin a 'sterilization circuit' from beginning to end and at a high level. There is the possibility for creating an surgery unit, particularly in view of the ambition of IMSan whom want to open an eye-throat specialization center where a patient can come early in the morning, have eye surgery and after go home. This of course will require financial backing according to minister Schwengle.

The Hospital soon will be undergoing a rather difficult period of renovation and if we invest in IMSan this will help them to complement and facilitate the Hospital during the renovation period. They must see each other as partners complementing each other, according to the Minister.

Financially IMSan is an excellent option for the benefit of our country and we can

enhance their services. There is the lack of many things; one of these is a good Emergency Service which should have more than the one function, so not only as First Aid Center, but in the future can become a real Emergency Center. San Nicolaas also deserves this.

Joel Raynherc was very pleased with the visit of the Minister. He was able to show him the facilities of IMSan, for example, the Emergency Services, the Dialysis center, the Diabetic center, and the eye specialist facility.

According to Dr. Schwengle, we don't need to create a

large 100 bed hospital That is not feasible and is also senseless in Aruba's current situation.

But, he says, it is important for IMSan to have the possibility of having the service of radiotherapy, small operations, a good Emergency Service, and a good diabetic center since the dialysis service is already there.

According to Schwengle, investing in IMSan will also create jobs for San Nicolas and will also be attractive for tourists knowing they can receive the medical care needed in San Nicolas.

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Income, criminal record checks for Antilleans and Arubans is racist: committee

THE HAGUE -- Plans by the government to introduce income and criminal record checks on people from Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten who want to move to the Netherlands have been condemned by a heavyweight committee of experts.

The plan, which is included in the coalition treaty between the right-wing VVD and the Labour party, is 'incompatible with international treaties' on racial discrimination, the Meijers Commission, which focuses on immigration policy, says in a damning report.

This is because the proposal involves treating Dutch nationals in different ways depending on their race, the commission states.

Concerned

The commission said it is extremely concerned about the plan. As well as being discriminatory, it will 'not be effective in contributing to solving the problem which has been identified'.

The government wants to use the proposal to stop Antilleans with a criminal record moving to the Netherlands.

At least five international and two EU treaties render the proposal unworkable. These include the UN treaty to ban all forms of racial discrimination, the commission says.

Opposition party D66 immediately called on the government to scrap the plan. 'It is painful and inappropriate to make a difference between people within our kingdom,' MP Gerard Schouw said. 'I am counting on the Labour party and hope that it quickly speaks out against the plan.'

A Labour party spokesman told website nu.nl the party has some questions about the proposal but that the coalition agreement remains as is.

Don't risk losing your car number! Last day to pay car number tax for 2014 is February 17

ORANJESTAD -- The Tax Department wishes to inform the community that February 17th, is the last day to pay motor vehicle tax for 2014. As of February 18th everyone who has not paid up and are driving their motor vehicles on the public roads are doing this against the law and are running the risk of getting a fine from the police. Besides this they also are running the risk of losing their motor vehicle number plate.

The Tax Office reserves everyone's number as long as possible. But if they run out of numbers for new clients they will then start using the numbers that are not paid as yet. For the client that has not paid their motor vehicle tax on time the risk of losing their number gets bigger as there are many new clients waiting for numbers.

Make Payments

Payments can be made at the bank or at the Tax Office itself. One can pay at the Tax Office in Camacuri or at one of the government auxiliary offices in San Nicolas, Santa Cruz, Savaneta or Paradera.

Up until February 14th the Tax Department's main office will be open non-stop from 7:45 am - 3:30 p.m. The Government offices will also remain open thru midday until 2:45 p.m. One can pay the motor vehicle tax and pick up their number plate on Saturday's also in February. (Feb. 1, 8, 15th).

To receive the number plate one must have proof of

payment: 1. receipt or a print-out of payment done online.

2. Original proof of a valid car insurance (If it's a copy it must have an original stamp of the insurance company or broker).

Clients who pay at the Tax Department office can pick up their number immediately.

Clients who pay at the

government office at San Nicolas can pick up their number plates right away at Camacuri or make an appointment with the cashier to make up their number at a later date, this will take one week!

Clients who pay via the bank can pick up their numbers after three working days.

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Sushi Salsa adds a tasty twist to Amazonia Churrascuria



Sushi Chef Harold and a tempting array



Chef Victor and Manager Raymond Talbot



Wente Sauvignon Blanc and Reisling were featured by Arion wine Company



PALM BEACH -- Ever sensitive to the diverse preferences of their patrons,

mélange of sweet, salty and spicy was a perfect example of the fine art of successful sushi, the delicate balance of various flavor factors.

Noteworthy is the very reasonable prices; more traditional sushi, such as Crispy Eel, California Roll and around a dozen others range from only \$7.00 to \$11.50 or \$12.50 for the more exotic Tiger and Aranha rolls. A large selection of specialty rolls like the Amazonia run a bit higher. All sushi is freshly made to order.

Arion Wine Company also offered a pairing of Wente Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling wines for a to enhance the experience. Taste testers from THE MORNING NEWS, however, were particularly taken with the authentic Japanese plum wine Gekkeikan Kobai, a smooth,



lightly sweet foil to the spiciness of the more exotic Manhattan roll, featuring a touch of Madame Janette, the local hot fresh pepper.

Amazonia is a favorite dinner stop for many regular visitors who know island restaurants, and their staple menu of all-you-can-eat fine meats, dramatically served on a giant skewer and carved at

your table, is intact. The owners, sushi aficionados themselves, are now offering a gentle alternative, a yin and yang for couples and groups with diverse tastes, aimed at satisfying whatever their appetites demand. A nice idea for keeping things fresh and interesting with an old favorite.

By Rosalie Klein

Amazonia Churrascuria, famous for their fabulous salad bar and a seemingly unceasing parade of grilled meats, has now unveiled a dedicated sushi station within their attractive eatery in Palm Beach.

Island media were welcomed on Monday evening, to become acquainted with Sushi Salsa, as well as recently installed restaurant director, the charming Raymond Talbot. Mr. Talbot is pleased to return to Aruba after a twelve-year hiatus in Spain, and is vitalizing his staffers with his enthusiasm for Amazonia's fine fare, as well as the elegant area dedicated to the art of Sushi Chef Harold, one of the most experienced on Aruba.

Chef Harold has garnered a following, due to his years of experience establishing some of the island's original sushi bars. He returns from a stint in Brussels, and was very excited to show off his art, and some of the exciting sushi combinations he has created just for Amazonia. A breathtaking display was filled with a number of conventional sushi rolls, but showcased his specialties, particularly his new Amazonia roll. Made with mango, salmon, tempura flakes, scallions and spicy crab topped with seaweed and flying fish roe, it was a delectable tidbit. The

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Winter weary US struck by another big storm

CHICAGO (AFP) - Winter-weary Americans were hit with another massive storm Tuesday which was expected to dump as much as a foot of snow and a dangerous mix of freezing rain and sleet on a huge swath of the United States.

People barely had time to finish clearing their driveways from the last big storm when the warnings came that another whopper was headed their way.

"A winter storm moving across the Midwest eastward through the Northeast will be followed by another plunge of Arctic air into the center of the country," the national weather service warned.

"The southwestern US will be the only area of the country spared from this Arctic blast."

Temperatures have already been so unusually cold this winter that supplies of propane -- which many homes and livestock farmers use for heating -- are dangerously low. Seven Midwestern governors sent President Barack Obama a letter Tuesday asking for help in relieving the shortages.

The central plains states of Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska were the first to be hit by this latest storm on Tuesday. By the evening commute, freezing rain had already knocked down power lines and snarled traffic as far east as Arkansas and Tennessee.

The storm was set to reach the east coast on Wednesday, when a low pressure system would bring warmer air that would turn the heavy snow into freezing rain in the Appalachians and southern New England. The weather service warned it could also cause flash flooding.

Schools across the region sent children home early or cancelled classes completely and scores of government offices and businesses were also closed.

Authorities issued please to motorists to stay off the roads, citing the risk of traffic accidents.

The Kansas Highway Patrol filled its Twitter feed with photos of trucks, busses and cars which had slid off snow-covered roads.

US pleads for 'good neighborliness' in Asia

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States called Tuesday for Japan, South Korea and China to find ways to work together, saying it was in the interest of all three to overcome historical animosity.

Danny Russel, the assistant secretary of state for East Asia, said he held "candid" talks on growing tensions during recent stops in Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo.

"There are multiple perspectives, but one thing is certain -- none of the problems, none of these tensions, can be solved by any one party alone," Russel told reporters.

"Frankly, we look to each of our friends and partners in the Asia-Pacific region to make a contribution to good relations and to good neighborliness," he said.

Russel said that Japan and South Korea, both US allies and democracies, had shared values that should "serve as the foundation for long-term trust." He said that China and Japan, as Asia's two largest economies, "can and must work together" in the interests of their citizens.

In the latest row tied to historical disputes, Japan instructed education chiefs to teach children that islands contested with South Korea and China unequivocally belong to Tokyo. South Korea immediately protested.

White House in damage control on health care jobs report

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House jumped to parry new attacks Tuesday against Barack Obama's healthcare law, after a congressional watchdog warned it takes the equivalent of two million workers out of the economy.

The report, by the Congressional Budget Office, offered fresh ammunition to gleeful Republicans who said it proved their long-held argument that Obamacare, which they have repeatedly tried to repeal, would "kill" jobs.

But the White House pointed out that the data did not prove employers were cutting jobs or hours because of Obamacare.

It said that the CBO summary instead showed that some who stay in low paid jobs or put off retirement to keep health insurance plans linked to employers would no longer have to under Obamacare and could choose to leave the work force or toil for fewer hours.

"Claims that the Affordable Care Act hurts jobs are simply belied by the facts in the CBO report," White House spokesman Jay Carney said in a statement, which appeared just before the White House conducted a hurriedly organized call for reporters.

"Since the Affordable Care Act passed into law in March 2010 the private sector has added 8.1 million jobs," Carney said.

"That is the strongest 45 month job growth since the late 1990s and contrasts with the 3.8 million private sector jobs lost in the decade before the Affordable Care Act passed."

Other officials said a healthier work force would lead to fewer sick days and higher productivity and that the law as a whole would have a stimulatory effect on the economy.

The non-partisan CBO report estimated that the ACA will reduce the total number of hours worked by between one and two percent during the period from 2017 to 2024.

It said the reduction will be driven mainly by low wage workers who chose to work less because of new taxes applying under the ACA and for other reasons.



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Bigger security threat outside Sochi: US official

Cont. from pg 1

Speaking to the House Intelligence committee, Olsen said the primary danger came from extremists with Emarat Kavkaz, or the Caucasus Emirate, which was "probably the most prominent terrorist group in Russia."

"It's made its intent clear to seek to carry out attacks in the run-up to the games," Olsen said.

US intelligence services are monitoring "a number of specific threats of varying degrees of credibility," he said.

But he added: "This is what we expected. It's what we saw in the run-up to prior Olympic games and prior events like these."

Asked about the extent of cooperation from Russian authorities after complaints from US officials, Olsen said Moscow was sharing information even though "there's always more we could do in that regard."

"But as of right now, I would characterize that level of sharing as good."

James Clapper, director of national intelligence, said cooperation had improved compared to three years ago and that the Russians "are more prone to cooperate when it's an external threat, less so with an internal threat."

The White House had expressed concern last month about Russia's reluctance to share details of various security threats to the games.

US President Barack Obama said in an interview that aired Friday that the Sochi Olympics will be "safe" but warned there are "always some risks" of a terror attack.

Treasury moves to keep headroom as debt nears limit

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Treasury Department said Tuesday it would suspend the sales of certain securities on Friday to allow for headroom in government finances as the nation hits its borrowing limit.

Sales of the State and Local Government Series (SLGS), special-purpose securities, will be suspended on February 7 at noon (1700 GMT), the Treasury said in a statement.

"This suspension is necessary by reason of the statutory debt ceiling. The suspension will assist Treasury's management of the debt subject to limit."

In October, Congress temporarily suspended the debt limit through February 7. On that date, the total amount borrowed will become the

new debt limit, in the absence of action by Congress to raise the debt ceiling.

US debt currently stands at \$17.3 trillion.

The suspension will impose some added cost and inconvenience on some state and local government issuers of new debt as they will have to invest the proceeds in alternative assets to remain in compliance with tax law, it said.

"The Treasury Department will reopen the SLGS window when Congress enacts, and the President signs, legislation raising the debt limit," the statement said.

The securities count against the debt limit and, as such, halting their sale conserves the "remaining headroom available" for operating without cutting back expenditures, the Treasury said.

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Fishermen in Mexico say they had searched for castaway

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ (AFP) - Fishermen in Mexico say they had searched for days for a colleague who claims to have survived 13 months adrift in the Pacific before washing ashore in the Marshall Islands.

The fishermen in the southern state of Chiapas say Jose Salvador Alvarenga, a native of El Salvador who is known by the nickname "La Chancha" or "fat person", had set sail with just a day's worth of food and water.

Alvarenga says he drifted some 12,500 kilometers (8,000 miles) from Mexico to the Marshall Islands after going on a fishing trip in December 2012 with a teenager who died while they were lost at sea.

Fishermen in Chiapas, however, say Alvarenga was last seen in the town of Chochohuitl before he sailed away in the afternoon of Saturday, November 20, 2012, and had

planned to return the next day.

His boss, Guillermino Rodriguez Solis, said Alvarenga had enough food and water for 24 hours and communicated by radio before strong northern winds hit the region.

The local shrimp fishing cooperative asked municipal and state authorities to help and a helicopter was deployed in a search that lasted four days.

"We are surprised, but there is no doubt it's him," said fisherman William Uscanga after seeing a picture of his bearded colleague.

Guillermina Morales, a local woman who hosts fishermen for lunch in her house, said Alvarenga had arrived in Chochohuitl from El Salvador with his brother several years ago and had hoped to immigrate to the United States.

Alvarenga, who was found at a remote coral atoll last Thursday, was recuperating in



a hospital in the Marshall Islands where he told AFP that he thought about suicide but was sustained by dreams of eating his favorite food -- tortillas -- and reuniting with his family.

Terror-accused Dutch journo leaves Egypt

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch journalist Rena Netjes left Egypt on Tuesday after being accused of being part of a "terror cell" involving Qatari-owned broadcaster Al-Jazeera, her Amsterdam-based employer said.

Netjes flew out of Cairo early Tuesday after several days in hiding, following a crackdown on the pan-Arab satellite broadcaster which Cairo accuses of backing the Muslim Brotherhood ousted from power by the military in July.

Egyptian prosecutors announced last Wednesday they were charging 20 Al-Jazeera journalists for "airing false news" by portraying Egypt in a state of civil war.

The late December crackdown saw terror accusations levelled against the broadcaster's journalists including award-winning Australian

journalist Peter Greste, two Britons and "a Dutch woman" -- now believed to have been Netjes.

Cairo accused them of "airing false news aimed at informing the outside world that the country was witnessing a civil war", among other charges, while 16 others, all Egyptians, were charged with belonging to a "terrorist" group.

Netjes said she was told by the Dutch embassy in Egypt that her name was on the list for prosecution because "I was supposedly a member of the 'Mariott terror cell'," referring to the hotel the pan-Arab broadcaster's English satellite network used as temporary offices.

"I had the shock of a lifetime," she said. "I immediately realised what was going on... In December I had an appointment to interview one of Al-Jazeera's journalists because he is a Sinai specialist," she said.

Her passport was copied at the hotel "so it was easy to make a link."

The Dutch embassy "found a solution that I do not want to discuss, but they found a safe place for me and above all contacted the Egyptian authorities."

Egypt's military-installed government cracked down on Al-Jazeera's affiliates following the overthrow of Morsi in July, accusing the broadcaster of pro-Brotherhood coverage.

Several other Al-Jazeera reporters also remain in detention, including Abdullah Elshamy, a journalist for the Arabic language station arrested on August 14.

The crackdown has raised concern by the UN's human rights office and protests from Washington as well as rights groups about press freedom in the troubled country.

US official won't say whether Obama phone data is collected

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A US official acknowledged Tuesday that the NSA likely scoops up data on congressional phone communications, but stopped short of saying whether such action extends to calls made by President Barack Obama.

The tense exchange occurred during a hearing on the status of the administration's reforms of the secret, bulk data collection program exposed last year by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden.

Deputy Attorney General James Cole, testifying before the House Judiciary Committee, hesitated when asked whether the controversial NSA program that gathers the numbers, call times and lengths of

virtually every US phone call extended to communications by members of Congress and executive branch officials.

Congressman Darrell Issa, a House Republican known for his staunch criticism of the Obama White House, asked specifically whether the program was scooping up information from "202-225-and four digits" -- the phone exchange for House of Representatives offices.

"Without going specifically, probably we do, congressman," Cole said.

Issa then asked whether the president's phone calls were targeted by the program. Cole would not say, but agreed to get back to Issa with the information.

The hearing comes amid

growing congressional and public concern over the scope of domestic intelligence gathering.

Members of the panel warned the Obama administration to swiftly reform the NSA's bulk data collection program or risk losing overall authority to conduct such surveillance.

Congressman James Sensenbrenner, a primary author of the counter-terrorism Patriot Act that followed the attacks of September 11, 2001, said it was a "shock" to learn how it was being used to justify a vast operation to Hoover up telephone metadata.

The section of the law used to justify the program "sunset" in June 2015, and with bipartisan congressional

opposition to bulk data collection mounting. Sensenbrenner and others suggested it would not be re-authorized without a major overhaul.

Liberal John Conyers, the panel's top Democrat, appeared to side with Sensenbrenner, saying "consensus is growing that this metadata program is ineffective."

But he warned that allowing all of Section 215 to expire would "lose valuable counter-terrorism tools along with the surveillance programs many of us find objectionable."

Obama last month said the administration was considering reforming the program by shifting metadata storage from the government to the telephone companies or a third party.



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10 pharmaceutical giants join US research initiative

NEW YORK (AFP) - Government researchers will collaborate with 10 large pharmaceutical companies on a \$230 million initiative to speed development of new medications for major diseases, the US National Institutes of Health announced Tuesday.

The five-year initiative targets Alzheimer's Disease, type 2 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, and may be expanded to other ailments, the NIH said.

The goal is to pool resources among NIH and the companies, normally vigorous competitors, to enable analysis of large data sets to track disease progression and the effect of therapies.

Data and early-stage research will be shared and made publicly available, and companies are expected to compete on developing commercial drugs once research passes the preliminary phase.

"Currently, we are investing a great deal of money and time in avenues with high failure rates, while patients and their families wait," said NIH Director Francis Collins.

Taking a drug from early discovery through government approval takes over a decade and 95 percent fail the test. That takes the cost of one success to more than \$1 billion, NIH said.

The initiative will be overseen by steering committees led by representatives of NIG and the Food and Drug Administration, the private sector companies and patient advocacy groups.

"Our most critical health challenges require new, innovative ways to develop medicines and vaccines," said Rupert Vessey, a senior vice president at Merck, which is joining the initiative.

"Collaborations such as this, that exchange data, share insights and generate knowledge will be important to unravelling the mysteries of the diseases that cause suffering for individuals and a burden to our society."

The other participating companies are: AbbVie, Biogen, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, GSK, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Sanofi and Takeda.

TAJ MAHAL: Taste of INDIA - If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal," discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb.

Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want

to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on which you

can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal!

Call 588-4494 for reservations.



Transplant tissue: Stem cells in 'revolutionary' boost

PARIS (AFP) - Scientists reported a simple way to turn animal cells back to a youthful, neutral state, a feat hailed as a "game-changer" in the quest to grow transplant tissue in the lab.

The research, reported in the journal Nature, could be the third great advance in stem cells -- a futuristic field that aims to reverse Alzheimer's, cancer and other crippling or lethal diseases.

The latest breakthrough comes from Japan, as did its predecessor which earned its inventor a Nobel Prize.

The new approach -- provided it overcomes safety hurdles -- could smash cost and technical barriers in stem-cell research, said independent commentators.

"If it works in man, this could be the game-changer that ultimately makes a wide range of cell therapies available using the patient's own cells as starting material," said Chris Mason, a professor of regenerative medicine at University College London.

Stem cells are primitive cells that, as they grow, differentiate into the various specialised cells that make up the different organs -- the brain, the heart, kidney and so on.

The goal is to create stem cells in the lab and nudge them

to grow into these differentiated cells, thus replenishing organs damaged by disease or accident.

One of the obstacles, though, is ensuring that these transplanted cells are not attacked as alien by the body's immune system.

To achieve that, the stem cells would have to carry the patient's own genetic code, to identify them as friendly.

In 1998 came the first gain: the use of cloning technology -- pioneered with Dolly the sheep -- to harvest stem cells from early-stage embryos grown from the donor's own DNA.

Hugely versatile, these "pluripotent" stem cells are controversial as the method entails destroying the embryo, something opposed by religious conservatives and others.

In 2006, a team led by Shinya Yamanaka of Kyoto University, who was a co-recipient of the 2012 Nobel Prize for Medicine, created so-called induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS).

With this, the team took mature cells and coded them with four genes, "rewinding" the cells' genetic programmes to return them to a juvenile state.

The technique had to overcome an early hurdle of causing tumours in cells and still

faces problems with efficiency -- less than one percent of adult cells typically are reprogrammed successfully.

The latest breakthrough, pioneered by Haruko Obokata at the RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology in Kobe, takes an entirely different and surprisingly low-tech approach.

White blood cells in newborn mice were returned to a versatile state by incubating them in a solution with high acidity for 25 minutes, followed by a five minute spin in a centrifuge and a seven-day spell of immersion in a growth culture.

Called stimulus-triggered acquisition of pluripotency (STAP) cells, the innovation breaks new ground.

Until now, only plant cells, and not mammal cells, have been found to reprogramme back to a youthful state through simple environmental factors.

STAP cells appear to have a limited ability to self-renew, and it has yet to be seen if they can be acquired from humans.

Only much later may trials in humans follow.

It took 13 years before the first trials with embryonic stem cells, and six years before the first iPS trials.

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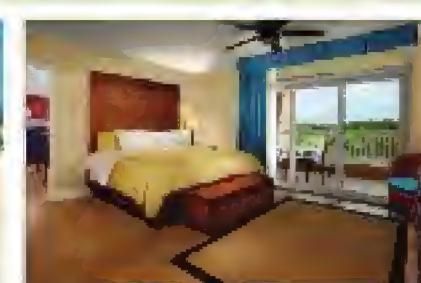
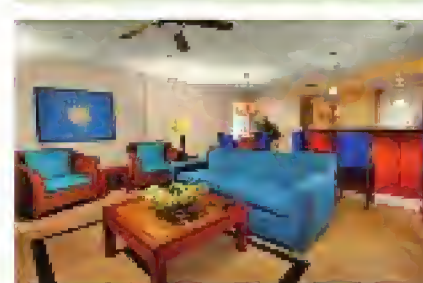
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'Ride Along' drives N. American box office



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Cop comedy "Ride Along" motored to the top of the North American box office for a third weekend in a row, final figures showed. The action flick starring Kevin Hart and Ice Cube easily outpaced its rivals, earning \$12 million in the United States and Canada, box office tracker Exhibitor Relations reported. In second place with \$8.9 million was Disney's smash hit "Frozen," a loosely-based retelling of a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale. A frontrunner for best animated feature film at the Oscars, it has earned nearly \$360 million in North America since its release. New arrival "That Awkward Moment," starring Zac Efron in a romantic comedy about three friends who pledge to remain single only to fall in love, opened in third place with \$8.7 million in box office receipts. In fourth place, children's movie "The Nut Job," a tale about a squirrel forced to survive in the big city after being banished from his park, earned \$7.3 million.

Actor's death spotlights heroin epidemic

NEW YORK (AFP) - The shocking death of Oscar-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman from a suspected drugs overdose has spotlighted a growing epidemic of heroin use across the United States, officials warn.

Hoffman, a 46-year-old father of three who was considered one of the finest character actors of his generation, was found lying on his apartment bathroom floor with a needle still stuck in his arm.

US heroin-overdose deaths rose by 45 percent from 2006 to 2010, and the amount of heroin seized each year on the Mexican border was up nearly four times from 2008 to 2012, he said.

"First time users are younger than they were years ago and it's not in the cities anymore, it's gone into rural areas, into suburbia," Moses said.

Hoffman is now the second high-profile actor in months whose death has been linked to the class A drug.

Cory Monteith, the 31-year-old Canadian star of hit TV

series "Glee", died of an accidental heroin and alcohol overdose in a Vancouver hotel room last July.

Renewed heroin use comes years after New York quashed its reputation as the heroin capital of the United States in the 1970s and 1980s, and the opiate became something of a taboo.

It was a city where late rocker Lou Reed wrote "Heroin" in the 1960s about the drug that makes you feel "just like Jesus' son."

Indelibly tied to the spread of HIV in the 1980s, use of heroin became a taboo as certain death and for its potent addictiveness.

But the DEA says that is changing, thanks to increased production in Mexico, increased smuggling and users increasingly addicted to prescription opiates then swapping to cheaper heroin.

It was this progression that Hoffman last year confessed to, telling TMZ that he had relapsed back into heroin following a spell on prescription painkillers after having been clean for 20 years.

"Heroin is death. There is no such thing as a good batch of heroin as opposed to a tainted batch," Moses said. "Unfortunately it takes the death of a very talented actor to bring it home to people... although we've been seeing it (heroin use) go up for years," he added.

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health said last September that the number of Americans who had used heroin in the past year had risen from 373,000 in 2007 to 669,000 in 2012.

The National Institute of Drug Abuse says 4.2 million Americans have tried heroin at least once during their lives, and 23 percent of individuals who use heroin become dependent.

Police have also impounded more and more caches.

In New York only last week 13 kilos (33 pounds) of heroin worth \$8 million were seized in the Bronx.

The Drug Policy Alliance charity says that of 115,000 people receiving methadone in the United States, 40,000 live in New York.

Best is yet to come, says Facebook's Zuckerberg

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - The 10 years since the founding of Facebook have been an "amazing journey," but the best is still to come, Mark Zuckerberg says.

Zuckerberg, the founder and chief executive of the world's biggest social network, reflected on the anniversary in a posting Tuesday on his own Facebook profile.

"Today is Facebook's 10th anniversary. It's been an amazing journey so far, and I'm so grateful to be a part of it," the 29-year-old Zuckerberg wrote.

"It's rare to be able to touch so many people's lives, and I try to remind myself to make the most of every day and have the biggest impact I can."

Zuckerberg said Facebook

succeeded because "we just cared more about connecting the world than anyone else. And we still do today. That's why I'm even more excited about the next 10 years than the last."

A Pew Research Center survey released Monday suggests no slowing momentum for the network, even though more than half of US Facebook users said they are turned off by oversharing and didn't like the fact that they showed up in pictures without giving permission.

According to the research firm eMarketer, Facebook has become the second-largest recipient of digital advertising spending behind Google, and is particularly strong in mobile ads.

Prince Charles visits British flood victims



MUCHENLEY (AFP) - Britain's Prince Charles on Tuesday visited flood-hit villages that have been cut off from the world by the wettest January for more than a century. The heir to the throne met residents, farmers and emergency staff in the stricken county of Somerset, in southwest England. The Prince of Wales traveled by boat to the village of Muchelney, which has been marooned by floodwaters for more than a month. Britain has suffered from storms and heavy rain throughout the winter with parts of southern England seeing the wettest January since records began in 1910.



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Gates shifts role at Microsoft, new CEO named

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Microsoft moved Tuesday to reboot for a mobile future, naming Indian-born Satya Nadella chief executive as founder Bill Gates shed his title of chairman for a more hands-on role.

Gates "will devote more time to the company" in his new role on the board as "founder and technology advisor," a company statement said.

Nadella, 46, who becomes the third CEO at Microsoft, has been executive vice president of its Cloud and Enterprise group.

The moves come with Microsoft losing ground to rivals like Apple and Google amid a shift away from the traditional personal computer to mobile devices and cloud services.

The 58-year-old Gates said that "during this time of transformation, there is no better person to lead Microsoft than Satya Nadella."

He called Nadella "a proven leader with hard-core engineering skills, business vision and the ability to bring people together."

Gates stepped down as CEO



in 2000 and left day-to-day operations in 2008 to devote more time to his multibillion-dollar Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Microsoft said John Thompson, lead independent director, will assume the job of chairman at the tech giant.

Nadella, who takes over from the retiring Steve Ballmer, said, "Microsoft is one of those rare companies to have truly revolutionized the world through technology, and I couldn't be more honored to have been chosen to lead the company."

He added, "The opportunity

ahead for Microsoft is vast, but to seize it, we must focus clearly, move faster and continue to transform. A big part of my job is to accelerate our ability to bring innovative products to our customers more quickly."

The shake-up at Microsoft drew positive responses from analysts.

Frank Gillett at Forrester Research said Nadella has shown "a willingness to shake things up, so that seems positive to us."

Gillett added that by using Gates as a key advisor, "he's reaching for Gates's experience in running the company but also in the successes in that era. But by having him in an informal role, it also says we are in a new era. All in all, it seems quite positive."

Roger Kay at Endpoint Technologies Associates said Nadella will need to articulate a vision for Microsoft, which under Ballmer was undergoing a transformation from software to "devices and services."

In late morning trading, Microsoft shares were up 0.33 percent at \$36.60.

Nadella heads the team that runs the public, private and service provider clouds for Microsoft. Previously, Nadella was president of Microsoft's \$19 billion server and tools business.

He is a native of Hyderabad, India and earned degrees from Mangalore University, the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and the University of Chicago.

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Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.83
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.96
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	198.51
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	243.20
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.83
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	32.83
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	28.80
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	177.45

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Power outages hit three million in Brazil

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Several Brazilian states, including three set to host June World Cup action, suffered power outages Tuesday, fueling fears over the country's ability to keep the lights on.

High demand combined with worries over supplies at a time of low rainfall led national grid operator ONS to warn of "disruption" in the integrated system as it noted outages in the north, southeast and south of the sprawling South American country.

Media reports suggested some three million people had seen supplies cut in 11 states, including Rio de Janeiro, and Parana in the south.

All three will welcome World Cup action in June.

The ONS said the cut lasted some 40 minutes before a

gradual return to normal power levels.

The outage came a day after the grid registered record demand for energy, including a rush for air conditioning amid soaring temperatures in a sticky Southern Hemisphere summer.

The high demand came with water levels in reservoirs running low owing to low rainfall this year to date -- though authorities deny that is a factor.

Brazil has previously suffered a spate of similar problems.

Last August, eight northeastern states were left without power following a fire at an electrical station.

In late 2012, another outage left passengers at tourist-packed Rio's international airport groping in the dark.

Amsterdam alderman sworn in as junior finance minister

THE HAGUE - As widely expected, Amsterdam transport alderman Eric Wiebes has been sworn in as the new junior finance minister.

Wiebes replaces Frans Week-



ers who resigned last week because of serious failings in tax office benefit payments. The junior finance minister's job focuses on tax issues.

It is not clear who is replacing Wiebes in Amsterdam. The local election takes place in six weeks' time.

US Congress passes huge bill reforming agro subsidies

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Congress passed a massive, long-overdue bill Tuesday that overhauls agriculture policy, including halting direct payments to farmers.

The five-year \$956.4 billion measure, which also reforms the food stamp program for the poor to save \$8 billion, marks a rare point of cooperation among bitterly divided lawmakers.

It now heads to the White House for the signature of President Barack Obama, who hailed the compromise measure as one that will "create new jobs and opportunities, and protect the most vulnerable Americans."

While noting the bill was not perfect, Obama said it "provides certainty to America's farmers and ranchers, and contains a variety of common-sense reforms that my administration has consistently called for, including reforming and eliminating direct farm subsidies and providing assistance for farmers when they need it most."

The bill's passage ends a nearly three-year battle over agriculture policy. Complex negotiations nearly collapsed twice in the past year, and conservatives in the House managed to split the bill into separate pieces, including one that slashed \$40 billion from the food stamp program.

That measure passed the Republican-led House but died in the Senate, and the eventual compromise made far gentler cuts to food stamps.

Senator Debbie Stabenow, the Democratic chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee who helped broker the deal with House Republicans, called the legislation "a major bipartisan jobs bill" that helps expand US food exports, broaden conservation efforts that safeguard US lands and water resources, mitigate rancher and farmer risks, and ensure a safety net for millions of needy families.

Among its key provisions is the abolition of a decades-old program that pays some \$5 billion per year in subsidies directly to farmers, regardless of whether or not they suffer crop losses or even plant crops.

Most of the savings from scrapping that controversial policy will now go directly into a new crop insurance program aimed at helping growers in times of crisis.

The bill slashes some \$23 billion from the national debt, but some congressional conservatives opposed the meas-

ure for not cutting enough, or for implementing only half-baked reforms that still allow millionaire farmers to earn subsidies.

Several liberals also opposed the bill, arguing the cuts to the food stamp program -- which would reduce aid to some 850,000 families, according to government estimates -- went too deep.

Food stamps were the most politically contentious element of the bill, and while supporters argue it importantly tweaked the program to prevent illegal immigrants, lottery winners or dead people from collecting the benefits, some lawmakers said the cuts will force thousands of children to go hungry.

But the compromise signaled that lawmakers could still come to the table and thrash out a deal, despite Congress's reputation as a broken body.

S&P cuts Puerto Rico debt rating to junk status

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Standard & Poor's on Tuesday cut the debt rating of Puerto Rico to "speculative" or "junk" status, saying the US territory is facing a liquidity squeeze due to high debts and a high deficit.

S&P lowered Puerto Rico's rating by one step to BB+, even as it was testing markets to raise a fresh \$2 billion in debt financing.

The government and official agencies of the Caribbean island territory, with a population of 3.7 million, have some \$70 billion in debt, and its constitution essentially forbids it

The bill has not resolved every agricultural dispute. It reportedly leaves unsettled the issue of country-of-origin labeling, which explains to consumers where animals that become meat and poultry are born, raised and slaughtered.

And some experts, like Jean-Christophe Bureau, author of a report on US agriculture policy for the European Parliament, say the new crop insurance system will encourage farmers to grow even more, which runs counter to the philosophy of World Trade Organization negotiations.

But many agriculture groups quickly endorsed the bill's passage.

The National Farmers Union said the bill "enacts meaningful reforms and provides an effective safety net for farmers and needy Americans alike."

from a default.

But S&P said nevertheless that it "has limited liquidity" which cannot be fully financed by the territory's Government Development Bank.

The agency said that the planned sale of new bonds to refinance GDB debt will come at a high price, "adding to an already high debt service burden."

And faced with a continued government deficit and weak island economy, S&P said, the risks of constrained ability to the government financing itself will remain high.



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O	N	O	A	I	M	T	O	I	N	K
T	E	X	A	N	A	M	E	N	D	S
U	S	M	C	A	N	D				
B	L	D	G	A	I	D	D	E	A	F
M	O	I	P	G	A	E	V	A		
W	A	S	H	S	A	L	M	R	E	D
T	B	A	R	E	P	O				
I	D	I	O	T	S	L	E	A	R	N
B	A	N	A	O	R	T	A	L	O	O
I	N	C	L	I	E	O	N	T	O	T
S	A	T	E	L	L	A	S	O	F	A

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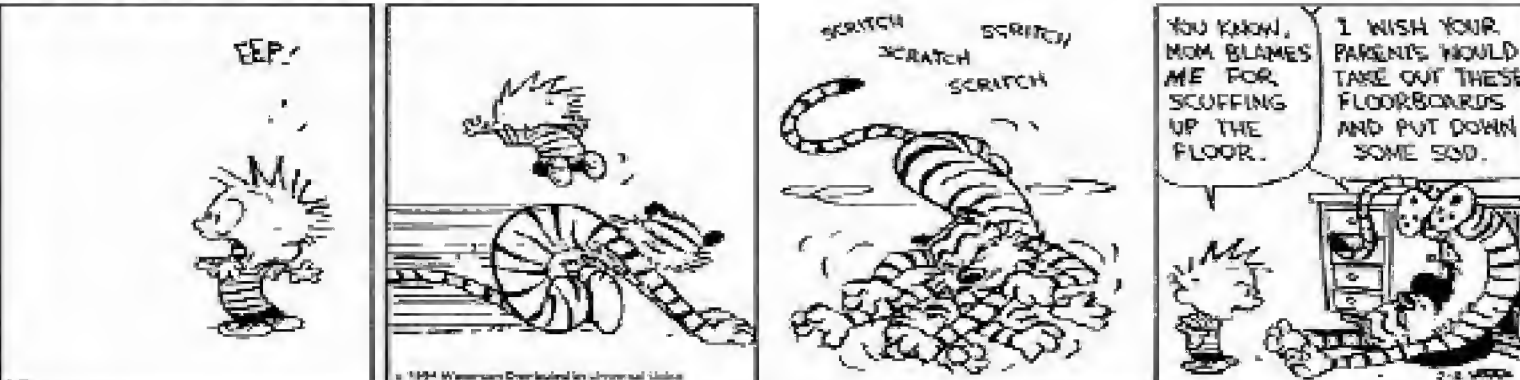
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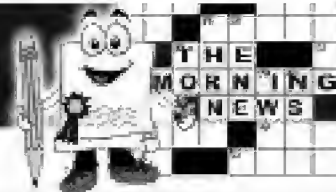
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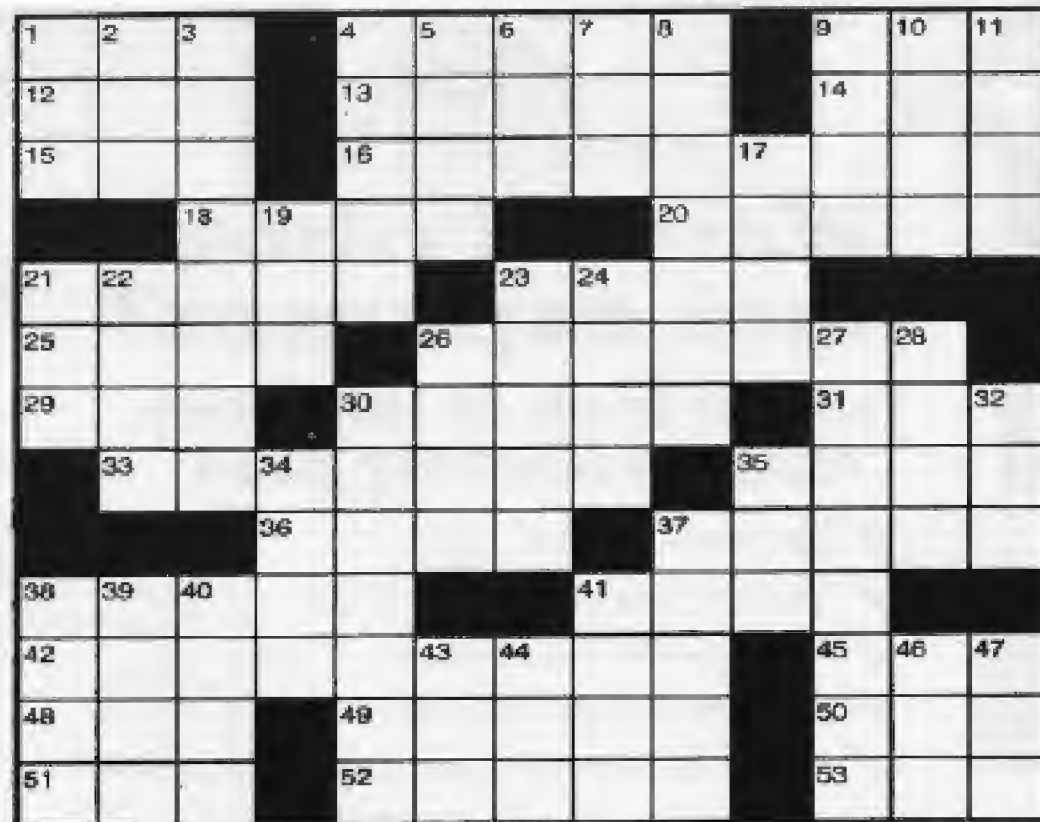
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ACROSS

1. NYC transit org.
4. Part of SST
9. Cash dispenser (abbr.)
12. Long time period
13. Mickey Mouse's pooch
14. Bombshell West
15. "I ___ Rock" (2 wds.)
16. Brings to mind
18. Passable grades
20. Swampy land
21. Invigorating air
23. Smear
25. Super Bowl memento
26. Food mixer

DOWN

29. Finale
30. Frontiersman Daniel
31. Large tank
33. Poolside structures
35. Pearl Harbor's island
36. Rampage
37. Out of style
38. Runway walker
41. Stereo's relative (hyph.)
42. Yellow Brick Road traveler (3 wds.)
45. Toronto's province (abbr.)
48. Quill tip
49. Stood completely still

DOWN

1. "Oh, give ___ home..." (2 wds.)
2. Baseball's Seaver
3. South American snake
4. Gay frolic
5. Spanish hurrahs
6. Bk. after Leviticus
7. Follower (suffix)
8. Collective farm
9. The "A" in U.S.A. (abbr.)

10. Paving materials
11. Screening
17. The ___ of Avon
19. Liverpool's locale (abbr.)
21. Crude mineral
22. ___ oxide
23. Make swollen
24. Camera attachment
26. Cher's former partner Sonny
27. Runarounds
28. Stadium roars
30. Officer of the court
32. Calendar abbr.
34. James Garner role on "Maverick"
35. Dunce
37. Longed for
38. Alps, e.g. (abbr.)
39. The Buckeye State
40. Societal newcomers
41. Mist
43. Gun lobby (abbr.)
44. Pop's wife
46. Previously named
47. Make trimming

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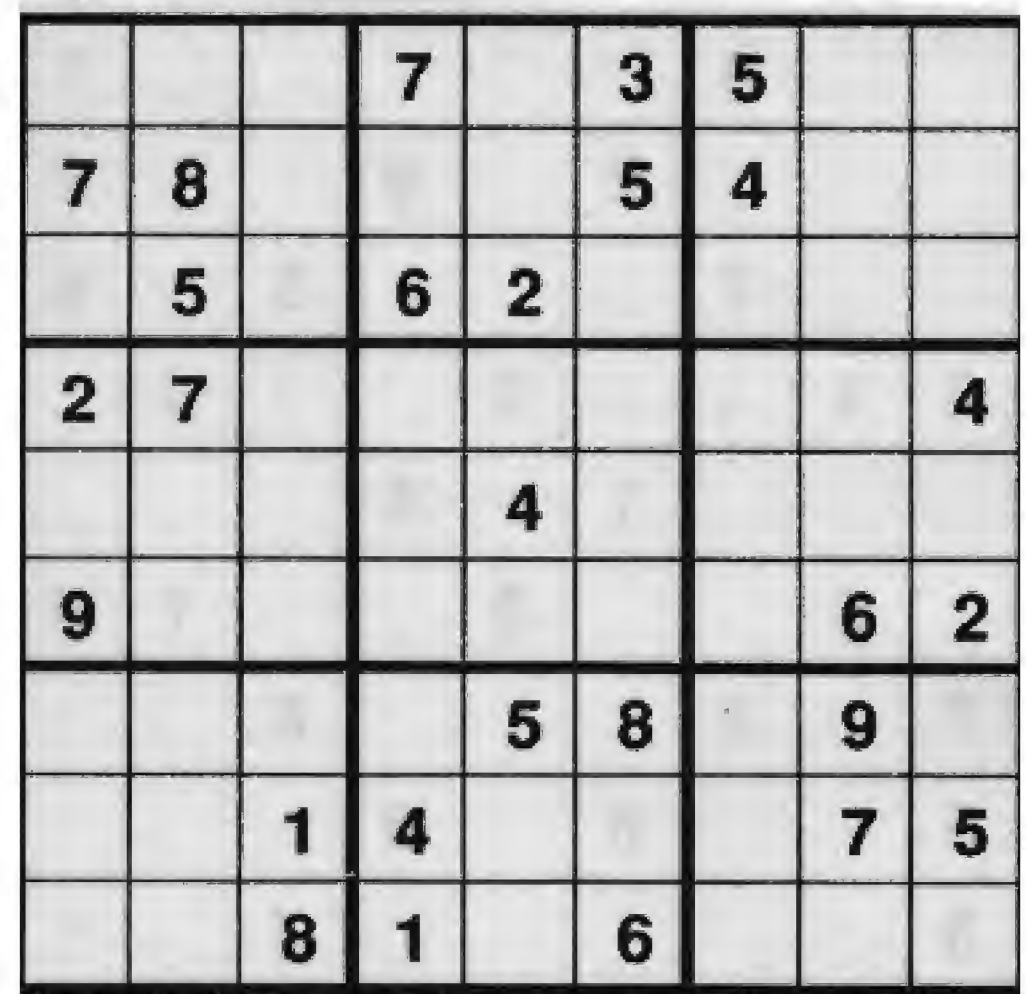
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	2	8	7	1	9	6	3	4
1	9	3	6	5	2	7	4	8
2	9	1	4	8	3	5	7	6
2	5	6	7	3	9	1	8	4
7	8	1	9	5	6	2	4	3
8	1	2	7	9	6	5	3	4
9	6	5	1	4	2	8	7	3
6	3	5	8	2	7	9	1	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the ac-



tion, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba con-

tributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area also to house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great

demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at The Queen's



Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varella Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what

first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generation. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi" -- "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena -- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-

tion of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

queensaruba.com/.

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining. telf. 5860606.

Amateur Boxing at Centro Deportivo Betico Croes

ORANJESTAD - Arubox held their annual amateur boxing for the third year on Betico Day. The boxing matches took place in Santa Cruz at the Centro Deportivo Betico Croes. There were 11 fights of which 4 were international with invitations from Curacao and Bonaire. Arubox is grateful for the support of their sponsors, namely, Nagico and Lotto pa Deporte.

Eighteen local athletes and 4 international got into the ring on the night of the 25th of January. The majority of the athletes were new to the game and got into the ring for the first time or had less than five boxing bouts. Participating local gyms were Leo's Boxing Gym, Team Bulldozer, Jefferson, Stay Thai Fit, Dojo Illidge and Mack's Fighting Elite.

IN the first bout for the night, Jah Inocencia from Illidge won Bryan Dorotal of Leo's. The next bout Romeo Francis from Leo's won Giorson Phellipa from Illidge. In the third bout Jonathan Mosley from Stay Thai Fit won Shaquille Maduro of Illidge.

Gym Mack's Fighting Elite debuted with boxer Steve Rodriguez who lost the fight against Jovier Hernandez of Leo's. In the next fight Arvin Solognier from Mack's won Edmar Winterdal of Stay Thai Fit. In the final bout of Mack's Fighting Elite, Jody Frans lost in the third round by Jeremiah Dijkhoff of Jefferson's gym. In the last fight of the evening Heber Sicha from Leo's won



Marvin Sulvania of Illidge.

In the first international fight of the evening, Lloyd Hinds of Curacao won Jethro st Fleur of the Bulldozer gym. This was probably the fight with the most action for the evening. Next was Nataly Ogenio from Curacao and Darina Gavidia. This fight had lots of action but was cut short by the referee in the third round in favor of Curacao, giving Nataly the victory.

Guillermo Kelkboom from the Aruba selection and William Evertsz from Bonaire began with Evertsz being very active and winning the first round. However, the bout finished when the referee had to stop the fight in the second

round when Guillermo stopped William and the Bonaire boxer said... enough.

The last fight of the night was between Ali Hudson of Leo's and Thuesten Winklaar from Bonaire. This was a bout between two heavy weights but disappointed the audience. There was little action during the bout from both sides. Hudson won in the eyes of the judges.

Arubox is grateful to their volunteers, athletes, coaches, doctor and sponsors. Everyone contributed to the success of the evening. Arubox will continue working towards improving boxing on Aruba.

Pabien to the Winners!



ATLANTA - The Atlanta Braves have locked up another key member of the team's future, agreeing to a contract extension with 24-year-old first baseman Freddie Freeman, a source told ESPN.com's Jerry Crasnick, confirming multiple reports. The deal with Freeman could be for as much as eight years and \$125 million, Fox Sports reported Tuesday. It comes on the same day Atlanta reached a two-year, \$13.3 million deal with right fielder Jason Heyward, also 24.



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BRIEFS:



LOS ANGELES (AFP) : Manny Pacquiao (L) of the Philippines and Tim Bradley of the US pose at a news conference to promote their upcoming WBO welterweight championship boxing rematch in Beverly Hills, California, yesterday. Pacquiao and Bradley's first match on June 9, 2012 was a split decision in favor of Bradley, which ended Pacquiao's welterweight title reign as well as his seven-year, 15-bout winning streak. The rematch will take place on April 12 in Las Vegas.



PORLAMAR - Vicyhandri Odellin of Cuba's Azucareros de Villa Clara pitches against Puerto Rico's Indios de Mayaguez during their 2014 Caribbean baseball series game, on February 4, 2014, in Porlamar, Margarita Island, Nueva Esparta state, Venezuela. Cuba won 2-1.



LONDON (AFP) : Sheffield United's English striker Shaun Miller (C) celebrates scoring the only goal in the English FA Cup fourth round replay football match between Fulham and Sheffield United at Craven Cottage in London on Tuesday. Sheffield United won 1-0 in extra time.



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Athlete Renze Postma to attend training camp in Colombia

ORANJESTAD - Last Sunday tri-athlete Renze Postma and his trainer, Nicolaas Robert left for Colombia for a one month's training at a special training camp. Renze will be training together with elite athletes from Bogota under the guidance of Nicolaas Robert and the Colombian trainer, Ivan Manuel Hernandez.

During the first week, Renze will train to adapt to the height of 2600m. In the following weeks he will train twice a day up to February 26th. On the 27th of February, Renze will go to Santa Martha which is at sea level and there on March 1st he will compete in a Sprint Triathlon. On March 3rd, Postma and Robert are expected back in Aruba.

Renze Postma is also



preparing diligently for the South American Games to be held in Santiago, Chile. This training camp will serve as great preparation for this young athlete.

The Subsidy Commission of the Lotto pa Deporte stands

behind the federation and provides the financial support for their activities. The Subsidy Commission is pleased to support our local athletes and wishes Renze Postma success in his training and his trainer Robert.

Brazil Taekwondo Foundation meets with members



ORANJESTAD - Last Thursday evening the Brazil Taekwondo organized a meeting at Centro di Barrio Brazil for their members. In this meeting they discussed a number of items, such as Hakeem Lowe's training given by Clifford Rasmijn, Canada Open, USA Open and the Belgium Open. They also discussed the planned car wash and Barbeque for March 30th.

Brazil Taekwondo's funds come from the car wash, championships, the sale of the calendar and from sponsors so that the Fight Smart Train Hard Team can represent Aruba internationally. On Friday the team will be representing Aruba at the TK5 in Suriname. The TK5 team of Aruba will confront Suriname, French Guyana and Guyana.

Clifford Rasmijn will be the coach for the team and hopefully come back with a trophy.

This week they intend to meet again to discuss the remaining points and to determine the division of responsibilities with respect to the carwash and barbeque to be held on March 30th.



NBA: Wade, James lead Heat over Pistons



MIAMI (AFP) - Dwyane Wade scored 30 points with 10 rebounds and five assists on Monday and LeBron James just missed a triple-double as NBA champions Miami beat Detroit 102-96. James scored 24 points with 11 assists and eight rebounds as the Heat won for the fifth time in six games. Brandon Jennings led the Pistons with 26 points. Rodney Stuckey added 20 and Greg Monroe and Andre Drummond both recorded double-doubles -- Monroe with 17 points and 11 rebounds and Drummond with 12 points and 12 rebounds. The Pistons had won two straight going into the contest, and they are one of just four teams to beat the Heat in Miami this season.

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Athletes from Aruba successful again in Miami Marathon

ORANJESTAD - After months of hard training 12 Aruban athletes can look back to a fantastic marathon. Together with 28,000 other athletes from various (79) countries, they started the adventure of 42.2 km on Sunday February 2. It was a little bite too warm but the runners were encouraged by the cheering of the thousands of spectators. The route is of course fantastic: Bayside, South beach, Art Deco District, Miami Downtown, Coconut Grove, Key Biscane and back to the finish at Bayside.

Also this time the Aruban athletes had the same T-shirts with "ARUBA" as logo. This brought a lot of positive responses from the spectators along the route.

The Group existed of 12 athletes of the "iRun" and "Run for your Heart"-group (who trained together for many months).

Results of the Aruban athletes:

Marathon



Michel Roos - 3.25.02
Alric Kock - 3.35.12
Mario Nooijen - 3.37.15
Dr. Johnny Cheng - 4.34.36
Eugene Martis - 4.39.52

Half marathon

Melvin Dabian - 1.31.58
Dr. Joaquin van Trigt -

1.36.57
Romar Arendsz - 1.40.20
Gerald Tsu - 1.47.56
Shariska Winterdaal - 1.54.31
Tracey Nicolaas - 2.15.45
Koos Veel - 2.17.48

Pabien to all!

Swimming: Thorpe in rehab for depression

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australian swimming great Ian Thorpe was in rehabilitation for depression Tuesday after a mixture of painkillers and antidepressants left him disoriented on a Sydney street, highlighting the pressures facing elite athletes after retirement. But his manager James Erskine insisted no alcohol was involved, as the swimmer's father suggested he faced months of treatment but would "come out the other side". A "dazed" Thorpe, 31, was discovered by police attempting to get into a car near his parents' house in the early hours of Monday and was taken to hospital for assessment. It was his second recent visit to hospital, after falling and needing shoulder surgery last week. At that time, his management denied reports that he was also being treated for depression and alcohol abuse. Erskine told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that the five-time Olympic gold medallist was now receiving treatment for depression, a condition he has struggled with for years. As well as being open about his depression, Thorpe detailed a battle with alcohol in his 2012 autobiography, but Erskine said it was not a factor in Monday's incident. Thorpe is Australia's most decorated Olympian with five gold medals at the 2000 Sydney and 2004 Athens Games, with his success attributed partly to his abnormally large feet and hands.

